

Chaplains preach, teach, counsel

Did you know the Fort Sill Garrison provides and supports one of the largest and most diverse religious support programs of any Army post in the United States? Commonly known as the "Chaplain Section," the director of religious support operations is responsible for providing religious services on Fort Sill. The DRSO also works with the Training and Doctrine Command, Forces Command and Medical Command unit ministry teams to provide for the religious needs of Soldiers, families and authorized Department of Defense personnel who are assigned or work on post. Programs provided by the DRSO are not limited to worship services. Other religious support programs include religious education, wed-

dings, funerals, pastoral counseling, women's and men's groups, youth groups, Bible studies, chapel retreats, spiritual fitness events and community events such as the National Prayer Breakfast. Fort Sill provides 17 weekly worship opportunities in five chapel facilities, the Resiliency Training Campus Support Center and Sheridan Theater impacting the spiritual needs of more than 2,000 attendees each week. New to the lineup of worship opportunities is the contemporary liturgical service and the relocation of the Jewish services at New Post Chapel. Two new opportunities are beginning soon; a traditional Protestant service at Quarry Hill Chapel starts Sunday and a contemporary



Did you know?

By Col. Raymond Lacey
Fort Sill Garrison commander

Protestant service will start at the RTCSC, formerly the RSOC, Oct. 24. A complete list of worship opportunities on Fort Sill can be found in the "Worship Opportunities" section of the Cannoneer. The worship services also receive offerings which support the enhancement of religious support programs. Many designated offerings each year are taken specifically for helping agencies which directly support Soldiers and family members.

Offerings also fund a special program called Operation Helping Hand, which is designed to provide food assistance to Soldiers and their family members who are in need. Contacting the unit chaplain is the first step in receiving help through this program. Weddings are also conducted in the chapels on Fort Sill. Those eligible to use a chapel for a wedding are military personnel and their dependents, retirees, family members with identification cards, and DoD employees.

To schedule a wedding, first, contact your unit chaplain or a worship service senior pastor. Please keep in mind chaplains are not obligated to conduct weddings, but will make a decision based on their faith group's requirements. In such a case, a civilian minister can be used, but the unit chaplain must sponsor the wedding. Prior to a wedding, I encourage couples to attend Fort Sill's Marriage 101 class. The class is held the first and third Fridays monthly at the RTCSC from 9 a.m. to noon. After receiving this helpful pre-marriage instruction, you also get a certificate of completion which can be taken to the Comanche County Courthouse for a discount on the marriage license fee. For the Marriage

101 class, call the Chaplain Family Life Center at 442-5003, or just walk in. In addition to Marriage 101, couples can receive intensive post-marriage counseling through the family life chaplain. The first step in arranging for an appointment is through the Soldier's unit chaplain. Let me encourage you to visit one of the many worship opportunities on Fort Sill to stay spiritually fit. To reach me To send questions or comments to me, please e-mail fscms@conus.army.mil or you can mail your comments to Commander, USAG-Fort Sill, 462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120, Fort Sill, OK 73503. Thanks and have a great Fort Sill day.

Deployed Sill doctor aids Afghan toddler

STORY, PHOTO By Breanne Pye
Special to American Forces Press Service
CAMP NATHAN SMITH, Afghanistan — Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division are helping a local Afghan family by providing treatment for their 6-month-old son, Rafi, who suf-

fers from a rare heart condition, at the Camp Nathan Smith Medical Aid Clinic. The family came to the clinic because the local community lacked the resources needed to treat Rafi, who was having trouble breathing on top of a severe heart murmur, said Maj. Jennifer LaBahn, officer in charge of the Camp Nathan Smith clinic.

LaBahn, a pediatric physician from Fort Sill, explained that Rafi suffers from a condition called transposition of the great arteries, which is a congenital heart defect that occurs when the large vessels that take the blood away from the heart, to the lungs or to the body, are improperly connected. While they work to find the resources necessary to get Rafi into life-saving surgery, the physicians of the Raider Brigade are doing everything in their power to keep him comfortable and happy. Capt. Christopher Alden, a physician assistant at the clinic, built Rafi a crib to sleep in, complete with a hand-made mobile to keep him entertained while he undergoes treatment. "When I saw Rafi, I just thought about my own two young kids back home," said Alden. "I have no experience to help him medically, but I thought about what makes my kids smile and laugh and knew I had to do what I could."



Rafi, a 6-month old Afghan boy, was admitted to Camp Nathan Smith medical aid clinic for complications related to a rare heart defect. He is waiting on funding to receive a life-saving heart surgery at the Children's Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Through this whole process, Rafi has brought his own bit of magic to the team of medics working in the aid station, said LaBahn. "Though most of them did-

n't have much experience dealing with small children, all the medics have pulled together to research and train up for future pediatric care," she said. Raider Brigade physicians


are working with medical authorities in Kabul to find a relief organization willing to donate the funds needed to perform Rafi's surgery at the Afghan Children's Hospital in Kabul.

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